

13

## The Character of a Happy Life (Poem)

خوشگوار زندگی کا کردار (نظم)

Words	Meanings	Words	Meanings	Words	Meanings
Envy	خدمت کرنا	Envy	رتک کرتا ہے	Armour	ذره بکتر
Retreat	تقریف	Untied	آزاد	Retreat	پسپائی اختیار کرنا
Rumours	برائی	Rumours	افواہیں	Conscience	ضمیر
Ruin	خوشامدی	Ruin	تباہ کرنا	Oppressors	دبانے والے ظالم
Rise	غلامانہ	Rise	عروج حاصل کرنا	Bands	پابندیاں
Relationships	علاقہ				

No. 1

Happy is he born and taught  
Envyeth not another's will;  
Armour is his honest thought,  
Simple truth his utmost skill!

وہ شخص کتنا خوش قسمت ہے جسے پیدا ہوتے ہی سکھا دیا جاتا ہے کہ وہ کسی کے تابع نہ ہو جس کی ذرہ بکتر (تحفظ) اُس کی ایماندار نہ سوچ ہے اور سادہ سچائی اُس کی اہل

Source:

Lines have been taken from the poem "The Character of a Happy Life" composed by Henry Wotton.

In the poem the poet tells us the secrets of a happy life. The man is happy who gets education and is free from all vices. He is an honest person and has strong conscience.

Message: The poet says that the person is lucky enough who gets good education after birth. He does not like to live at the mercy of others' will. He considers his honest thought the best armour for protection. He speaks the simple truth which is his best skill.

No. 2

Passions not his masters are;  
His soul is still prepared for death,  
He looks not unto the world by care  
Nor for ill fame or private breath;

جس کے جذبات اُس کے مالک نہیں، جس کی روح مرنے کو تیار ہے، وہ عوامی شہرت اور ذاتی فائدے کے لیے دنیا کی پریشانیوں سے آزاد ہے۔

Source:

Lines have been taken from the poem "The Character of a Happy Life" written by Henry Wotton.

In the poem, the poet tells us the secrets of a happy life. The man is happy who gets education and is free from all vices. He is an honest person and has strong conscience.

**Paraphrase:**

The poet says that the character of a happy life does not become the slave of his passions. He believes that he has to die one day. He is free from the worries of the world and does not like to be famous fakely.

**Stanza No. 3**

Who envies none that chance doth raise,  
Nor vice; who never understood  
How deepest wounds are given by praise;  
Nor rules of state, but rules of good;

جس کو شہرت ملے اس سے حسد نہیں کرتا وہ برائی نہیں کرتا، وہ نہیں سمجھتا کہ تعریف کرنے سے کتنے زخم ملتے ہیں۔ وہ ریاست کے اصولوں کو نہیں بلکہ نیکی کے اصولوں کو مانتا ہے۔

**Reference:**

These lines have been taken from the poem "The Character of a Happy Life" composed by Henry Wotton.

**Context:**

In this poem, the poet tells us the secrets of a happy life. The man is happy who gets education and is free from all vices. He is an honest person and has strong conscience.

**Paraphrase:**

This person does not envy from other's progress. He does not do any vice with the person who fails to understand him. When he helps others or does good thing to others, people praise him. But he does not like it because it hurts his feeling.

**Stanza No. 4**

Who hath his life from rumours freed;  
Whose conscience is his strong retreat;  
Whose state can neither flatterers feed;  
Nor ruin make oppressors great;

جس کی زندگی افواہوں سے پاک ہے۔ وہ جس کا ضمیر اس کی پناہ گاہ ہے۔ جو خوشامدیوں کی خوشامد پسند نہیں کرتا اور نہ اس کی تباہی ظالموں کا حوصلہ بڑھاتی ہے۔

**Reference:**

These lines have been taken from the poem "The Character of a Happy Life" composed by Henry Wotton.

**Context:**

In this poem, the poet tells us the secrets of a happy life. The man is happy who gets education and is free from all vices. He is an honest person and has strong conscience.

**Paraphrase:**

He wants his life to be free from rumours. His strongest shelter is his conscience that protects him. He hates to be like flatterers and oppressors.

**Stanza No. 5**

Who God doth late and early pray  
More of His grace than gifts to lend;  
And entertains the harmless day  
With a religious book or friend;

جو خدا کی رات کو اور صبح سویرے عبادت کرتا ہے۔ جو خدا کی رحمت حاصل کرنے کے لیے دعا مانگتا ہے۔ نہ کہ چیزیں مانگنے کے لیے اور مفید دن گزارتا ہے۔ مذہبی کتابوں کو پڑھ کر یا

**Reference:**

These lines have been taken from the poem "The Character of a Happy Life" composed by Henry Wotton.

**Context:**

In this poem, the poet tells us the secrets of a happy life. The man is happy who gets education and is free from all vices. He is an honest person and has strong conscience.

**Paraphrase:**

He prays to God from morning till late night. He wants God's grace instead of gifts. During the day time, he likes to stay with his friend or to read a religious book.

**Stanza No. 6**

This man is freed from servile bands  
Of hope to rise or fear to fall:  
Lord of himself, though not of land,  
And having nothing, yet hath all.

یہ آدمی غلامی کی پابندیوں سے پاک ہے۔ بڑا آدمی بننے کے لیے یا عزت کے کھونے کے خوف سے وہ کسی زمین کا مالک نہیں، وہ اپنی ذات کا مالک خود ہے اور کچھ نہ رکھتے ہوئے اُسے سب کچھ حاصل ہے۔

**Reference:**

These lines have been taken from the poem "The Character of a Happy Life" composed by Henry Wotton.

**Context:**

In this poem, the poet tells us the secrets of a happy life. The man is happy who gets education and is free from all vices. He is an honest person and has strong conscience.

**Paraphrase:**

The poet says that this man is free from the bands of slavery i.e., ups and downs of life. Although he has no lands like a lord but he is lord of himself. He has nothing but seems to have everything.

**SUMMARY**

Henry Wotton

(Lahore Board 2010 Group I)

This moralistic poem has been composed (ترجیبی) by Henry Wotton. The poet has used the happy man as a mouthpiece (نمائندہ) to teach us goodness (اچھائی). Man should develop such qualities in himself to be happy and satisfied. Only that man is happy who is not under the commandments (احکام) of another person. He remains honest and truthful in all circumstances (حالات). He is not under the clutches (پابندیوں) of his passions. He is not afraid of death. Rather, he is always ready to face this reality. He does not care whether he (حسد) becomes famous or dies alone and (گمنام) anonymous.

He is free from evil passions of envy, jealousy and vice (برائی). He knows that praise is a dangerous thing and it brings harm. He is always determined to do good (بہ عزائم) to others. He does not believe in rumour mongering. (افواہ پھیلانا) His conscience is a great check and stops him from such pernicious (مہلک) acts. He is never elated (تازاں ہونا) at flattery (خوشامد) nor is crestfallen at a loss. His strength is his honest thought and he remains truthful in his conduct and behaviour. He is always under the commandments (احکامات) of Allah. He is never desirous of material gains.

He always aspires (آرزو کرنا) to enjoy God's grace (لطف و کرم). He spends his days and nights in reading religious books or in the company of a good friend. No one shuns him. Rather (بلکہ) everyone is attracted

to him for his virtuous (نیکی والی) nature. Apparently (ظاہر) he possesses nothing but he is the master of everything in real sense.

### EXERCISES

Answer the following questions.

i. What is the main idea of the poem?

Ans. The main idea of this poem is that a happy man is honest, moderate and modest. He has faith in God and is contented with his place in life, not chasing glory or material possessions. He, in the end, is richer in what really matters.

ii. Underline nouns in the poem.

Ans. Will, armour, thought, truth, skill, passions, masters, soul, death, world, care, fame, breath, vice, wounds, praise, rules, state, good, life, rumours, conscience, retreat, flatterers, feed, day, oppressors, God, pray, grace, gifts, book, friend, man, bands, fears, lord, lamb.

iii. Make a list of rhyming words in the poem.

Example: taught, thought

Add two more rhyming words in each line.

i. born, scorn, flown

ii. soul, doll, goal

iii. vice, nice, price

Paraphrase the second stanza.

The poet says that a gentle person is not a slave of his passions. He has full control over his passions. He is not afraid of death, rather is always ready to face death. He does not bother about worldly fame or gains. He is untied with the worldly affairs.

Explain the last stanza.

The poet says that a happy man does not have any desire for getting rise in the world. He is not afraid of losing fame. He does not possess any property, yet he is very happy. He has not lands but is lord of himself. He remains satisfied with his resources. He does not have anything yet he has everything.

Missing letters.

i. Consc\_\_ence

ii. U\_\_most

iii. Ru\_\_n

iv. Ser\_\_ile

v. Re\_\_reat

vi. Oppress\_\_r

Match the words similar in meaning in List 'A' with 'B' and write the answer in 'C'.

	List 'A'	List 'B'	List 'C'
(i)	Oppressor	Destruction	
(ii)	Servile	Cruel	
(iii)	Ruin	Free	
(iv)	Vice	Slavish	
(v)	Untied	Sin	

Use the following words in your own sentences.

Words	Meanings	Sentences
Armour	ذره بکتر	In olden times, warriors used armour for their safety.
Passions	جذبات	Bridle your passions to lead a well balanced life.
Soul	روح	Soul is immortal.



Untied	آزاد	The freedom fighter is untied from the servile bands.
Vice	برائی	Vice is opposite to virtue.
Conscience	ضمیر	My conscience blames me whenever I do something wrong.
Ruin	تباہ کرنا	A violent bomb explosion ruined the building of the church.
Praise	تعریف	A teacher must praise the brilliant students for their encouragement.
Flatterers	خوشامدی	Wise people are always aware of the flatterers.
Oppressors	دبانے والے۔ ظالم	Oppressors can never win the hearts of their people.
Servile	غلامانہ	I dislike your servile attitude.
Harmless	بے ضرر	Dove is an innocent and harmless bird.
Envy	ریشک کرتا ہے	He envies others' progress.
Rumours	افواہیں	Wise men never pay attention to rumours.
Retreat	پسپائی اختیار کرنا	Retreat is defeat.

### Answers

#### Missing Letters.

- i. i      ii. t      iii. i      iv. v      v. t      vi. o

#### Correct List 'C'

- i. Cruel      ii. Slavish      iii. Destruction      iv. Sin      v. Free